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(54) Masking the "B" post of a vehicle using a foam strip

(57) A vehicle "B" post (2) is masked during paint spraying using a foam strip (12) adhered by pressure sensitive adhesive (16) to the leading edge of the rear door (4) in the region of the bottom panel (10). When in position, the strip extends across the "B" post to overlap with the trailing edge (18) of the front door (14) when closed. The foam strips, having a width of 20-40 cm, may be in a roll with a stripe of pressure sensitive adhesive adjacent one edge.

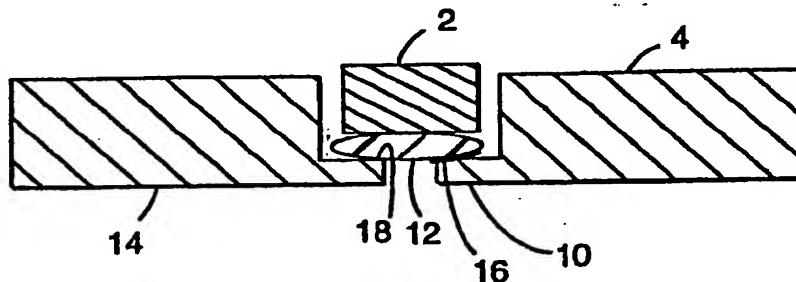
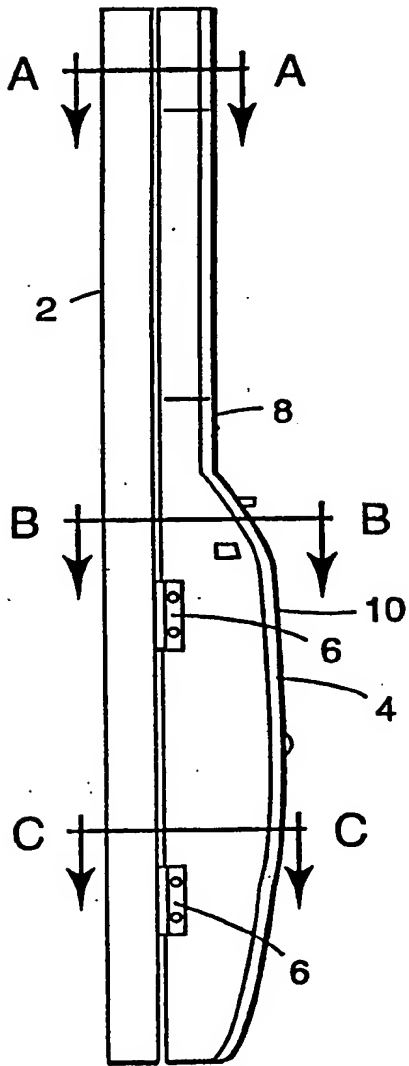
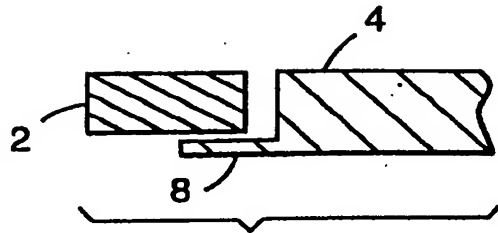


Fig.3

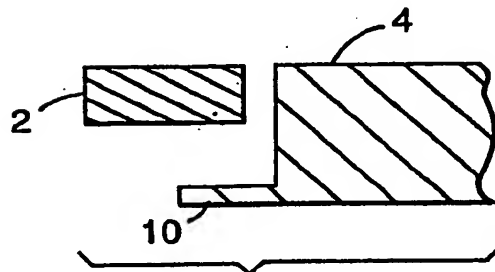
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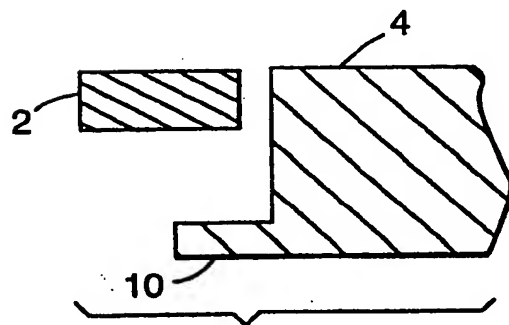
*Fig.1*



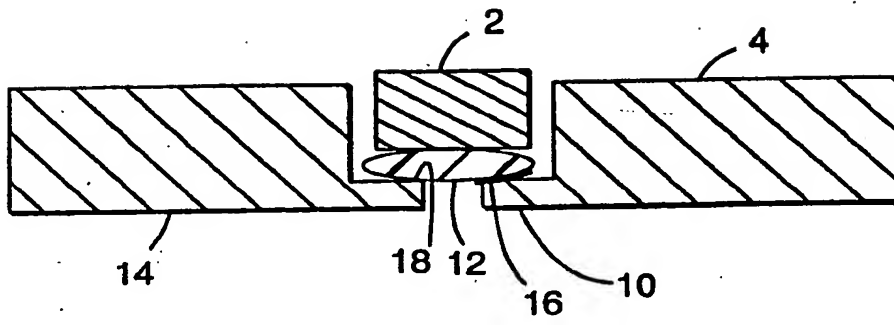
*Fig.2a*



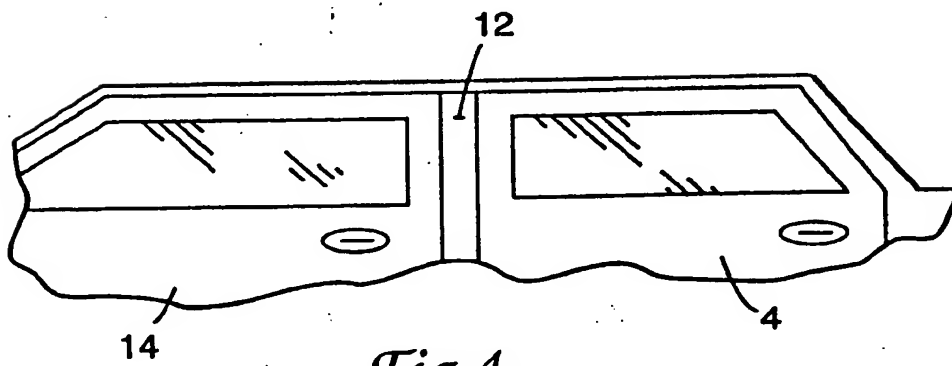
*Fig.2b*



*Fig.2c*



*Fig.3*



*Fig.4*

MASKING METHOD

This invention relates to a method of masking a vehicle during spray painting and in particular to a method of masking the "B" post of a vehicle.

5       The "B" post of a vehicle is the pillar situated between the rear edges of the front door and leading edge of the rear door of a vehicle. The "B" post often supports the hinges of the rear door and the fastening catch for the front door. When re-spraying door panels  
10       it is necessary to mask the "B" post in such a way as to prevent overspray going through the gap between the front and rear doors. This is a difficult area to mask since the "B" post is often irregularly shaped and dirty and will not readily accept conventional masking materials  
15       having pressure sensitive adhesive. Also, the door panels are generally spaced some distance from the "B" post and it is not possible to rely upon the door holding masking material in place by compressing the material against the "B" post with the edge of the door.

20       The present invention provides a simple, effective technique for masking "B" posts.

Therefore according to the present invention there is provided a method of masking a vehicle "B" post comprising the steps of:

25       providing a resiliently conformable strip of masking material having a width greater than the maximum distance between the trailing edge of the front door adjacent the "B" post and the leading edge of the rear door adjacent the "B" post and a length at least equal to the length of  
30       the "B" post to be masked, the strip having pressure sensitive adhesive on a surface adjacent a longitudinal edge of the strip,

opening said front door,

35       applying said strip to the inner surface of the leading edge of the rear door so that the pressure sensitive adhesive securely adheres the strip to conform with the profile of the leading edge and the strip

extends across the "B" post to an extent sufficient to overlap with the trailing edge of the front door when said front door is closed, and

5 closing the front door to abut said overlap thereby masking the "B" post.

10 It has been found that by selecting a resiliently conformable masking material e.g. foam strip, thick paper scrim, non-woven material etc., it is readily possible to adhere the masking material to the inner surface of the leading edge of the rear door by pressure sensitive adhesive so that the masking material projects across the "B" post and will maintain this configuration. The front door is closed over the overlapping portion of the masking material. The masking material is sufficiently  
15 stiff not to be displaced by the pressure of the paint spray thereby effectively masking the "B" post and preventing ingress of overspray inside the doors.

20 The masking material is generally in the form of a strip 20 to 40mm in width, preferably about 26mm. A particularly preferred material is polymeric foam, preferably an open cell foam, e.g. polyester polyurethane foam, such as Caligen 4200 foam. The foam may conveniently have a thickness of from 10 to 20mm and may have any cross-section e.g. rectangular, oval or  
25 elliptical, providing it will not be displaced by the pressure of the paint spray.

30 The masking strip generally has a stripe of pressure sensitive adhesive of from 8 to 12mm wide adjacent one longitudinal edge, normally within 2mm of the edge. In one embodiment the strip may have a second adhesive stripe adjacent the other longitudinal edge for adhering to the inside of the trailing edge of the front door. The additional adhesive strip may have a width of from 8 to 12mm and is normally positioned within 2mm of the other  
35 edge.

The masking strip may conveniently be provided in the form of a roll wound upon itself, optionally about a

core. Therefore according to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a roll of masking material comprising a foam strip wound upon itself, the foam strip having a width of from 20 to 40cm, a thickness of from 10 to 20mm and pressure sensitive adhesive on a major surface adjacent a longitudinal edge. The masking material may conveniently be formed from foam web by the process disclosed in EP 0384626.

The strips may be formed in a parallel array each strip being separable. Therefore according to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a roll of masking material comprising a parallel array of foam strips conjoined and manually separable, each foam strip having a width of from 20 to 40cm, a thickness of from 10 to 20mm and pressure sensitive adhesive on a major surface adjacent a longitudinal edge. The array may be formed by applying an adhesive to a foam web and slitting the web. Alternatively, the array may be formed in accordance with EP 0384626, which results in an array in which the strips have an elliptical or oval cross-section and adjacent strips are joined by longitudinal welded seams that maintain the curvature of the strips.

The invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 represents an end view of the rear door of a vehicle and associated end post,

Figures 2(a), (b) and (c) represent cross-sections through A-A, B-B and C-C of Figure 1,

Figure 3 represents a cross-section through a "B" post and front and rear doors showing the masking in accordance with the invention, and

Figure 4 represents a partial side view of a vehicle showing the front and rear doors.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2, the "B" post (2) supports the rear door (4) which is mounted by hinges (6). The upper portion of the door (8) adjacent the window is adjacent the "B" post (2) whilst the lower

panel (10) of the door extends away from the "B" post such that there is a significant gap between the "B" post and the edge of the door panel (10).

5        Figures 3 and 4 show the masking material (12) in position masking the "B" post (2). The front door (14) is opened and the masking strip (12) is positioned between the "B" post (2) and the edge of the rear door (4) such that the strip of adhesive (16) is adhered to the edge of the door, particularly in the region of the bottom panel (10). If necessary, the rear door (4) can be opened to facilitate positioning of the masking strip (12). The masking strip (12) will follow the contour of the rear door (4) which is identical to that of the edge (18) of the front door (14). Thus, when the front door is closed the edge (18) will abut the masking strip (12) thereby completing a seal. In one embodiment, the masking strip will include a stripe of pressure sensitive adhesive in the region of contact with the edge (18) of the front door (14). The masking material is sufficiently resilient to maintain its position around the contour of the lower panel (10) during the paint spraying operation thereby preventing ingress of paint to the "B" post and interior of the vehicle.

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CLAIMS

1. A method of masking a vehicle "B" post comprising the steps of:

5 providing a resiliently conformable strip of masking material having a width greater than the maximum distance between the trailing edge of the front door adjacent the "B" post and the leading edge of the rear door adjacent the "B" post and a length at least equal to the length of the "B" post to be masked, the strip having pressure  
10 sensitive adhesive on a surface adjacent a longitudinal edge of the strip,

opening said front door,

15 applying said strip to the inner surface of the leading edge of the rear door so that the pressure sensitive adhesive securely adheres the strip to conform with the profile of the leading edge and the strip extends across the "B" post to an extent sufficient to overlap with the trailing edge of the front door when said front door is closed, and

20 closing the front door to abut said overlap thereby masking the "B" post.

2. A method as claimed in Claim 1 in which said strip has a width in the range 20 to 40mm.

3. A method as claimed in Claim 2 in which said strip  
25 has a width of about 26mm.

4. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3 in which the pressure sensitive adhesive is in the form of a stripe having a width of from 8 to 12mm.

5. A method as claimed in any preceding Claim in which  
30 the strip additionally comprises pressure sensitive adhesive in the region of the overlap with the trailing edge of the front door.

6. A method as claimed in Claim 5 in which said  
35 pressure sensitive adhesive is in the form of a stripe having a width of from 8 to 12mm adjacent the other longitudinal edge.

7. A method as claimed in any preceding Claim in which the masking material is polymeric foam.

8. A method as claimed in Claim 7 in which the foam has a thickness of from 10 to 20mm.

9. A method as claimed in Claim 8 in which the foam has a rectangular, oval or elliptical cross-section.

10. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 7 to 9 in which the foam is a polyester polyurethane foam.

11. A method as claimed in Claim 1 substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

12. A length of masking material adapted for masking a "B" post of an automobile, said length of masking material comprising an elongate foam strip having a longitudinally extending major surface and longitudinally extending edges on opposite sides of said major surface, said major surface having a width of from 20 to 40cm between said edges, said foam strip having a thickness normal to said major surface of at least 10mm, and said length of masking material including a longitudinally extending layer of pressure sensitive adhesive on said major surface adjacent one of said edges.

13. A roll of masking material comprising a foam strip wound upon itself, the foam strip having a width of from 20 to 40cm, a thickness of from 10 to 20mm and pressure sensitive adhesive on a major surface adjacent a longitudinal edge.

14. A roll of masking material comprising a parallel array of foam strips conjoined and manually separable, each foam strip having a width of from 20 to 40cm, a thickness of from 10 to 20mm and pressure sensitive adhesive on a major surface adjacent a longitudinal edge.

15. Masking material as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 14 in which each foam strip has a rectangular, elliptical or oval cross-section.

16. Masking material as claimed in Claim 15 in which the strips have an elliptical or oval cross-section and adjacent strips are joined by longitudinal welded seams that maintain the curvature of the strips.
17. Masking material as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 16 in which said strip has a width of about 26mm.
18. Masking material as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 17 in which the pressure sensitive adhesive is in the form of a stripe having a width of from 8 to 12mm.
19. Masking material as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 18 in which each strip comprises pressure sensitive adhesive on said major surface adjacent the other longitudinal edge.
20. Masking material as claimed in Claim 19 in which said pressure sensitive adhesive is in the form of a stripe having a width of from 8 to 12mm adjacent the other longitudinal edge.
21. Masking material as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 14 substantially as herein described.

<b>Examiner's report to the Comptroller under Section 17</b> <b>(The Search report)</b>	GB 9404417.9
<b>Relevant Technical Fields</b>	<b>Search Examiner</b> <b>G J W RUSSELL</b>
(i) UK Cl (Ed.M)      B2L (LCVA)	
(ii) Int Cl (Ed.5)      B05B 15/04	<b>Date of completion of Search</b> <b>25 MAY 1994</b>
<b>Databases (see below)</b> (i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.	<b>Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :-</b> <b>1-21</b>
(ii) <b>ONLINE DATABASES: WPI</b>	

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<b>A:</b> Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.	<b>&amp;:</b> Member of the same patent family: corresponding document.

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
A	GB 2254812 A (MINNESOTA MINING AND MANUFACTURING)	12-14
A	EP 0365510 (SILVESTRE) See Figure 4	1
A	WO 90/15668 (FRESCOLINE) See Figures 10 and 11	1

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